

UNITED NATIONS TO RECALL ENVOYS FROM MADRID

COMPLETE BREAK WITH FRANCO PLAN REJECTED

OVERWHELMING VOTE IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, DEC. 9. THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE TO-DAY VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO RECALL AMBASSADORS AND MINISTERS FROM MADRID, BUT REJECTED BY THE NARROWEST MARGIN THE PROPOSAL FOR A COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE FRANCO GOVERNMENT.

The vote was 27-7, with 16 abstentions, including the United States and Britain. Russia, China and France voted for the move, which was a compromise of the proposal to sever diplomatic relations.

Both the resolution for a complete break and the American-sponsored resolution to call on Franco to quit in favour of a provisional democratic government were defeated on the votes.

All three alternative actions against Franco may have another chance when the Spanish issue goes to the floor of the General Assembly where it will need a two-thirds vote for passage.

Strong feelings have been aroused by the subject, especially among the Latin-American delegations. This resulted in a long argument about the method of voting.

Dr. G. Bello, of Cuba, in an impassioned plea against breaking off relations, said: "My Government, even if a rupture were recommended, would not accept this recommendation. No country will dictate to my country what policy it will follow in regard to other countries."

The preamble, which contained parts of the United States, Polish, and Belgian proposals condemning the Franco Government, was adopted without division.

The first operative clause, recommending that Spain should be debarred from membership of the United Nations' International agencies until a new and acceptable government was framed, was carried by 32 votes to 5, with eight abstentions.

Mr. Tom Connolly, U.S. delegate, declared that the proposed diplomatic isolation of Franco, a move opposed by the United States and Britain, represented a real threat to the whole issue.—United Press and Reuter.

Franco's Answer

Madrid, Dec. 9. Gen. Francisco Franco, speaking to-day during a demonstration intended to show the solidarity of Spain behind his leadership in face of United Nations opposition, declared: "Spanish interests do not clash with the honourable interests of other nations."

UNO AGREEMENT ON POST-UNRRA RELIEF

New York, Dec. 9. The long struggle in the United Nations over the form international relief should take after UNRRA expires ended when the Economic and Financial Committee voted for a long resolution embodying the United States' insistence on bilateral arrangements and making only a slight concession to the principle of continued international co-operation.

One of the most striking features of the resolution, which will now go to the plenary session for final approval, is the Norwegian plan for contribution of one-day's pay by all working people throughout the world to relief needs. This scheme will be worked out in detail by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Economic and Social Council.

International co-operation, for which virtually the entire 16-nation Committee fought strenuously against equally stubborn opposition from the United States, and the United Kingdom, was preserved in mild form through the Canadian-proposed establishment of a special technical committee to study relief requirements and report to all governments by January 15.

The Committee is composed of finance and foreign trade experts from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Poland, the United Kingdom, United States and Soviet Union.

The Committee would have an advisory capacity only and the experts would serve in a private capacity and not as government representatives—a point on which the United States had insisted before it accepted the Canadian amendment which proposed the Committee.

The resolution states expressly that no discrimination will be made in the distribution of relief supplies because of race, creed and political belief. It calls for consultation among producing countries to co-operate in their relief activities.

The vote on the entire resolution was unanimous. Unanimous approval by the plenary session is a foregone conclusion.—United Press.

Anglo-U.S. Talks On Arms Standardisation

London, Dec. 9. No decisions have been taken by Britain and America on the standardisation of arms, according to Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council in a Parliamentary reply to the Communist member, Mr. Phil Piratin, to-day.

He added, however, that in view of the reciprocal exchange of weapons between the U. S. and the U.K., which took place during the war, there had naturally been discussions on this subject in the interests of economy, particularly since the two countries had effected a merger in Germany.—Reuter.

U.S. Statement

Washington, Dec. 9. Political commitments were not implied in an informal exchange of views which has taken place between Britain and the United States on the standardisation of arms, the State Department said to-day.

"There has been no change in policy," a spokesman said. "The commitments of the United States are to the United Nations."

Reading a formal statement echoing that made to-day by Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of

BIG-SCALE ATTACK ON YENAN OPENED

Nanking, Dec. 9. Radio Yen-an to-day claimed that five or six regiments of Gen. Hu Tsung-nan's army had launched a big-scale attack towards Yen-an from the southern part of the Communist border region, penetrating ten miles into the Red pocket.

The broadcast said the Nationalists in the initial drive captured two small towns, Liu-lien and Yangchia-fu. Liu-lien is about 90 miles south of Yen-an.

The broadcast indicated that the Nationalists were attacking the Lunghai Railway zone.—United Press.

The Council in the House of Commons, on such exchanges of views, the spokesman said: "It would be a mistake to conclude that this very natural development implies political arrangements or commitments."

"As the Secretary of State said on March 10 this year: 'We do not propose to seek security in alliance with the Soviet Union against Britain, or in an alliance with Britain against the Soviet Union.'"

To-day's U. S. statement spoke of the reciprocal exchange of weapons during the war. "It is natural and inevitable for armed forces to standardise necessary military equipment to the greatest degree practicable. To accomplish quickly and efficiently the tremendous task with which we were faced those who handled supplies in both countries and directed them towards the winning of the war found a certain amount of standardisation of equipment followed inevitably and aided tremendously in the efficient prosecution of the war."

"In many cases new types of equipment were developed jointly. Wherever standardisation was effected there was a saving in time, money and man power."

Emphasising the financial saving effected by standardisation, the statement said: "The American people are particularly interested in economy and reducing the cost of Government.—Reuter."

Vikings Unsited To Cold Weather Flying

London, Dec. 10. The British European Airways Corporation announced yesterday that British-built Viking aircraft had been grounded temporarily because they developed a tendency toward instability under icing conditions.

American-built Dakotas (Douglas) and other aircraft will replace them. BEAC had seven Vikings in service on December 1, all on continental European routes. Thirty-seven others are to be delivered by the end of February.

BEAC technicians held a meeting yesterday to consider structural changes in the 21-seat Viking, which would make it possible to use them again for cold weather flying.—Associated Press.

Supreme Court Acceptance Of U.S. Strike Case

Washington, Dec. 9. The United States Supreme Court to-day accepted jurisdiction of the contempt of court proceedings against John L. Lewis and the American Federation of Labour. United Mine Workers and fixed January 14 for the opening arguments.

Although Lewis' calling off of the coal strike released pressure for a quick decision, the Court granted the Government request to take the case direct from the Federal District Court, where Lewis was fined \$10,000 and the Union \$3,500,000, thereby bypassing the Federal Court appeals.

After hearing the arguments, the Supreme Court must decide the issues and reach a decision—a legal procedure that might delay the final verdict until close to March 31, the date up to which Lewis agreed to keep the miners at work under the existing Government contract.

The Court's action meant that oral arguments involving the important question of use of Court injunctions to prohibit strikes against public interest would not begin until after the Republican-controlled Congress convenes. Presumably Congress will await ruling before embarking on a broad programme for revision of existing labour legislation.

However, Senator Robert Taft, who may be chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, told the press that labour legislation would be among the first problems confronting the new Congress.

The immediate question before the Supreme Court is whether the fines levied against Lewis and the Union were justified. Mr. Alan Goldsborough, who led the fines, is the question of whether Lewis had the right to terminate the UMW's contract with the Government.

Meanwhile, the Solid Fuels Administration estimated that returning miners would dig about 1,500,000 tons of coal to-day, compared to the pre-strike average of 2,200,000 tons. Only scattered districts reported defiance of Lewis' back to work order.

The question for the Supreme Court to decide in the case, as set forth in the Government brief, is this, adds Associated Press:

"Did the District Court of the United States in this case have jurisdiction, by the issuance of a temporary restraining order to prevent irreparable injury to the people of the United States to prevent interference with sovereignty actions of the United States and protect the district courts jurisdiction, to decide the questions of law, fact and incident hereto?"

GREEK REBELS SURRENDER AT LARISSA

Athens, Dec. 9. The Greek General Staff to-day reported a clash in the village of Roota, near Larissa, in which 20 guerillas were reported to have been killed yesterday against the loss of one soldier.

Fourteen guerillas surrendered to-day with their full equipment to Greek military authorities at Larissa, it was officially stated.

The Ministry of Public Order declared that it had received information that members of a Slav-Macedonian organisation had been arrested near Doiran, near the Greek-Yugo-Slav border, while mining the main roads.

The Greek Military authorities in north and central Macedonia have so far failed to obtain an explanation from the Bulgarian military authorities on Bulgarian's south-western frontier of an incident in October in which Bulgarian troops ambushed a Greek patrol on Greek soil, official Athens sources stated to-day.

Giving the first news of the alleged clash, the statement said Bulgarian soldiers hidden behind rocks on Greek territory, some 200 yards from the border, opened "violent fire" on Greek troops patrolling near the outpost of Agrioparasi, south of Nevrokop region on October 31.

The Greek patrol repulsed the Bulgarians who retreated into Bulgaria under cover of fire from a Bulgarian outpost.—Reuter.

Statement On India Expected In Commons To-day

London, Dec. 9. The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Herbert Morrison, announced to-day that a statement on India might be made in the Commons on Tuesday.

He was replying to Mr. Anthony Eden, former Foreign Secretary and Deputy leader of the Conservative Opposition, who asked whether a statement would be made in view of the desire of all parts of the House to hear a statement as soon as possible.

A Labour member, Maj. Wyatt, asked why the statement could not be made on Friday so that a debate on Indian affairs could follow immediately.

Mr. Morrison replied: "I don't wish to preclude the issue at all. I have got the statement it is intended to make and it would be premature at this point to decide even in my own mind whether a debate would be possible."

Lobby rumours indicated that potential leaders might avoid debate this week.

The British Press Association said: "Some ministers feel that if unwise things were said in the debate it would be a disaster."

NEHRU TO RESIGN?

New Delhi, Dec. 9. Reliable sources said to-day that Pandit Nehru, Congress Party leader, offered to resign as vice-president of the Viceroy's Executive Council because of his failure in the London conference on India.

Nehru reportedly told the Congress Working Committee that his trip was a failure and his decision to attend against the unanimous advice of his colleagues was a blunder. He was said to feel that the only way he could atone would be by his resignation from the Interim Government.—United Press.

Thursday and Friday have been left open on the Parliament schedule and it was reported that the House put up a strong demand for a debate, one would be arranged for Thursday. The Conservative Party's "shadow Cabinet" was reported undecided on its position regarding a debate on India.

Lobby sources said that the Commons would probably debate the controversial merger of the British and American zones of Germany.—Associated Press.

Muslims In Britain

London, Dec. 9. Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan, Muslim League President and Secretary, received private callers in Claridge's Hotel to-day.

K. H. Khurshid, Jinnah's private secretary, said Jinnah had begun talks with local Muslim leaders for reorganisation of the United Kingdom of the League, Khurshid added.

The Muslim League President is reported to have brought over £15,000 to finance the reorganisation, but Khurshid would make no comment on the matter.—Associated Press.

Indian Press Comment

Bombay, Dec. 9. The Times of India said editorially to-day that the London conference failed to achieve agreement but brought a reasonably clear and concise statement on the procedure before the Constituent Assembly from the British Government.

The editorial continued: "In view of that statement, masterly in form and contents, all parties can now co-operate in the Constituent Assembly, secure in the knowledge that their views have been respected and rights safeguarded. The view of all parties having been met, the country is entitled to expect these parties to co-operate in the Constituent Assembly."

The National Standard said: "The statement issued from London on Saturday does not smooth out the way for Indian freedom plan to be worked out."

The Free Press Journal's editorial said: "The London conference has fizzled out. The British made no different approach."—United Press.

HELICOPTER CRASH

San Marco, Texas, Dec. 9. Army Lieut Jack Burlage died to-day in Brooke General Hospital, bringing to four the number of deaths in the crash of an Army helicopter which fell in flames shortly after taking off from the Army helicopter school on Friday.

Burlage fell clear but suffered severe burns in trying to save the three other passengers.—United Press.

British Warships Race To Aid Stranded Jews

Jerusalem, Dec. 9. The British destroyer Chevron was forging through white-capped waves in a Mediterranean storm to-night on her 600-mile voyage of mercy from Haifa to Syria—a barren treeless island on the fringe of the Dodecanese group—where some 800 Jews have been marooned since their ship foundered on Saturday.

In her wake sailed a British minesweeper, also loaded with supplies. The Chevron was carrying blankets, food and clothing to supplement the five tons of supplies dropped on the island early to-day by three RAF Halifax planes.

So far the Syria relief operations have been carried out entirely by British forces. A plane chartered yesterday by the Jewish Agency to fly four doctors to Syria had not turned up from Cairo by to-night and is not expected to get off until to-morrow.

Two Greek destroyers were dispatched from Athens to-day by the Royal Greek Navy to the aid of the would-be immigrants.

Tank Landing Ship of the Greek Navy carrying food and medical supplies was also despatched at the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Sir Algernon Willis.

A Jewish Agency representative called on the British Ambassador in Athens to-day requesting help to rescue the stranded Jews. The Agency had earlier made a similar appeal to the Embassy by radio.

In Palestine to-day, the plight of the illegal immigrants—encamped in a valley on the south-west tip of the island and exposed to cold winds and rain sweeping from Greece—overshadowed the opening of the World Zionist Congress in Switzerland.

The swift response by the British authorities to the Jewish SOS plus the cheerful nonchalance with which the Halifax pilots made to-day's 1,000 mile-round trip with supplies, has stirred the entire Jewish community of Palestine.

Twenty-seven purchase-borne containers were dropped over Syria to-day from one Halifax aircraft.

The officer superintending the drop said: "It is difficult to drop personnel such as medical supplies. But we would be willing to try it."

The shipwrecked Jews are spread in groups all over the island's only valley—a narrow "saucer" rimmed by hills.

Unconfirmed reports from Jewish sources in Athens said to-night that eight of the Jews shipwrecked were killed and several others were injured when their boat struck a rock. The island is uninhabited.

A British tanker was the first rescue ship to reach the Jews and it was sighted lying off the island by one of the Halifaxes.

The tanker will stand by until British and Greek naval units arrive. Though heavy weather is now moderating, it is thought that the rescue operations may take at least a week.—Reuter.

The proceedings were recorded for immediate transmission to Palestine. Representatives of the Swiss Federal and Cantonal Government were among the 3,000 people present. Among the Diplomatic Corps were the Envoy of the Papal Nuncio, representatives of the French Ambassador, the United States and Soviet Ministers and representatives of a number of other European countries.

The British Minister at Berne was not represented. (Continued on Page 4)

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Prospects Slim Of Early Reopening Of Japanese Trade

Prospects of Japan reopening to normal trade next year, or even the year after, are slim in the opinion of usually well-informed quarters in Tokyo, says Reuter. They predict that the present deadlock will drag on for some time to come at least until reparations questions are settled and the peace treaty signed. But when this will be anybody's guess.

In the meantime, foreign business houses are closed, with the exception of certain interests whose specialised services are essential to the work of the occupation forces.

British and American warships and supply vessels make regular calls at Japanese ports but merchant shipping companies have no incentive to resume their services, as the movement of passengers and cargoes is subject to permission from General MacArthur's headquarters, and this is only granted for high priority reasons.

General MacArthur's forces, in fact, "occupy" Japan in every sense of the word. In Tokyo, requisitioned buildings are staffed with personnel from all branches of the American army, American soldiers, including WACs, crowd the main streets and armed MPs in "snowdrop" helmets guard General MacArthur's headquarters next door to the once famous Imperial Hotel.

Allied Missions

Most Allied countries are represented in Tokyo by missions, the biggest of which is the Soviet, some 500 strong. The British come second with less than a hundred. When peace is signed these missions will be elevated to embassy or legation status.

LONDONERS SEE ATOMIC EXHIBITION

Scientifically minded Londoners are getting to grips with the mysteries of atomic energy with the aid of a compact exhibition now on view at the Science Museum in South Kensington. Here they are to be seen daily, poring over a series of exhibits designed to illustrate the nature of atoms and the amount of energy stored in their infinitesimal depths.

Included in the display are models showing the actual structures of various atoms, and photos of the tracks of atoms and their components—protons, neutrons and electrons. The collision of these particles can be seen and studied and the energy released when the atom is "split" can be measured.

A highlight of the exhibition is a collection of apparatus used by J. J. Thomson, Rutherford, Aston and others in their pioneer investigations in Britain into the problems of atomic structure, which will no doubt be regarded in future times with the same reverence which is now given to such relics as Stephenson's "Rocket" locomotive or Newton's reflecting telescope.

The process of the fission of uranium is illustrated by several exhibits, including photographs showing the test atom bomb explosion in New Mexico in 1945; but pride of place goes to a new and most ingenious mechanical model which, with the aid of ping-pong balls taking the place of "released" neutrons, demonstrates the chain reaction of an A-bomb explosion.

An historic touch is lent by a number of reproductions of John Dalton's Atomic Diagrams, used by him in his lectures on the Atomic Theory which he propounded to the world in 1803, thus laying the foundations of modern chemistry.

Although the British Commonwealth Army of Occupation represent 25 percent of the armed forces in Japan, they are isolated in the southern part of the island and receive little outward recognition for the competent, thankless job they are doing.

Compared with the Americans, their lot is a difficult one. Their living and feeding conditions are inferior to the Americans and their entertainment facilities are limited. Their morale, however, is good, and this "forgotten force" has done much for British prestige.

Both American and Commonwealth troops mix well with the Japanese who, after the surrender, expected the worst and instead received humane and friendly treatment. In return, they are co-operating well.

Few Incidents

Incidents are few, and inevitable strikes, demonstrations and red flag waving by minority parties are viewed in their right perspective and kept under control.

The food situation in Japan is bad, but it has improved in the past few months. The rice crop has been better than for several years, and distribution of imported foodstuffs by the occupation forces has partially alleviated what once threatened to be a serious situation. The people of Japan will face the winter with shabbier clothes than they were in pre-war days, but they will have more to eat than a year ago.—Reuter.

Democratisation Of Japanese Diet Building

In present day Japan, where the word "democratisation" is on everybody's lips, even the Diet building may become an object of democratisation.

The possibility was raised following the persistent criticism that the Emperor perching on a high chair, surrounded by members and Cabinet ministers, and sitting behind the speaker on an elevated platform, represented remnants of feudalism, says Central News.

Lower House Speaker Takeshi Yamazaki requested the House secretaries to move up a plan for reconstruction of the Lower House Chamber to make it "more befitting for a democratic nation under the new constitution."

Diet members also demanded that the platform from which Cabinet ministers overlooked Diet members should be eliminated, since Cabinet ministers had no right to feel superior to Diet members. They also criticised the position of Cabinet ministers behind the Speaker.

The present Japanese Diet building is perhaps the most elaborate and object in Japan, having been completed ten years ago with the best materials from all parts of the country. The 250,000 yen building survived the extensive bombing of the capital.

MINING ADVISER

Doctor Jacob Bakker, well-known mining engineer of the Netherlands State Mines, has joined Britain's National Coal Board as adviser to the Chief Mining Engineer. Dr. Bakker, who is 57, is widely recognised throughout the coal-fields of Europe as a leading expert on "horizon mining"—driving main roadways straight out from the pit-bottom and working the coal wherever it is struck.



A typical scene when the Grains Trust is in session. This inspired lunacy is a feature of the BGC "Influence Is Bland" programme. Left to right (at table), Stewart Macpherson (Question Master); Gladys Hay; (under the table), Harold Berens.

NUREMBERG COURIER SERVICE

The final curtain on the Nuremberg Trials—the hanging of the Nazi criminals—saw also the end of another commitment of Britain's Royal Air Force—that of carrying secret reports, official documents, press reports, newsreels and British Broadcasting Corporation recordings between Furth landing ground, near Nuremberg, and the R.A.F. Station, Blackbushe, England.

For the duration of the Nuremberg Trials, these documents were flown to the United Kingdom daily. Four Mosquitos were available, two at Blackbushe and two at Furth. The Courier Service commenced on November 15, 1945. It was only another job for the British Air Forces of Occupation. Less spectacular than the work done during the war, but nevertheless important.

This commitment was handed to No. 2 Group, R.A.F. Gutersloh, which employed aircraft and personnel of Nos. 305 (Polish), 421 and 107 Squadrons. Each squadron undertook a month's duty in turn and supplied aircraft, crews and ground staff for maintenance. The Polish squadron took the first tour of duty and set a standard which remained high throughout the time the Courier Service operated.

Frequently, when ordinary transport aircraft were grounded owing to bad weather during last winter and the spring, the Mosquitos rose to the occasion. More often than not there would be broken cumulus cloud over the landing ground at Furth, and sometimes the area would be blanketed with thick cloud, making landing a hazardous undertaking. In fact, there were only two occasions when they failed to operate during the whole of the time that the trials were in progress.

Two Mosquitos were held at the terminal landing grounds daily in readiness for the mission, one to do the actual journey, and one in reserve. With the regularity of clockwork, at 1.30 p.m. each day, the courier received the sealed mail bags, taxied into wind and took off, and within two or three hours dispatches and reports were delivered in Whitehall, copy was being sub-edited in Fleet Street, and on quite a number of occasions B.G.C. recordings were being run over in readiness for broadcast of the day's proceedings in the six o'clock news.

EUROPE SEES BRITISH ART

Art lovers on the Continent of Europe have recently been able to see a representative exhibition of contemporary British painting during the visits to various capital cities of a travelling exhibition of 124 pictures. The selection included work ranging in time from the two great English impressionist masters, Sickert and Steer, to Albert Richards who was killed—serving as a war artist—in the last year of World War II.

In style the exhibition was comprehensive of all the different schools active in Britain during the past 50 years, and represented the latest trends, most prominent of which is the neo-romantic school and includes the work of such different artists as Henry Moore, Graham Sutherland and John Piper.

These latter three all found new fields as war artists in World War II; Henry Moore, as a painter, with pictures of air-raid shelters; Piper drawing new inspiration from the ruins of Britain's Gothic churches; and Sutherland with his scenes of industrial work and twisted gliders, the skeletons of London's devastated buildings.

COMMERCIAL ACCORD

Pelplin, Dec. 9. The Nationalists in Manchuria and the Soviet military authorities in North Korea have signed and enforced the first commercial accord, according to Tia Kung Pao. The accord provides Soviet supply of electric power to Manchuria payable by the Chinese in kind.—United Press.

LONDON LETTER

By John Shipton

Despite the criticism of Mr. John Strachey and the views about food rationing, housing is still the number one problem not only in London but all over Britain. I have had first-hand experience of this accommodation racket and you can take it from me that all you have read about overcharging is not exaggerated. It is not an uncommon thing for a man to have to share a room with seven others at something like £2 a week each, and although rent tribunals have certainly done good work in cutting rents according to accommodation available, the housing market is still a mess.

For example, I know of a case where a tribunal cut a rent by more than two-thirds, at the same time giving the tenant three months' security. That breathing spell is almost up now, the tenant being faced with finding a room or rooms with Christmas almost upon us. And there are thousands of people in the same predicament.

Housing Racketeers

I have it on the highest authority that in London's East End alone up to 20 people share the same house and one gas cooker. Indeed, many families at their wit's end for accommodation are readily falling victims to numerous racketeers. Among them are what is known as "house farmers." They buy large properties and let out single rooms for as much as £3 a week. So it seems I am one of the lucky ones.

Despite all this Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, is convinced that housing will not be a major issue at the next general election. He must be a super optimist. At least 2,000,000 houses are wanted in the next four years to meet only present requirements from a building labour force estimated to be 500,000 men.

This is rather a gloomy picture of the housing situation in Britain, but I am happy to record there is a brighter side. It is a bonus scheme for builders by which it is hoped to speed up the new houses. On the first job where the scheme was tried, output jumped three-fold. The new scheme is expected to start on a nationwide basis early in the new year.

Bonus Scheme

Trade leaders are confident the bonus will not mean increased costs, claiming that the vastly increased output will cancel out the extra wages cost. Members of the trade's National Production Council contend that three immediate effects of a bonus scheme will be: a tremendous speed-up in all types of building work, particularly housing; the ending of a huge black market in the building trade; and the rebirth of a "Dunkirk spirit" throughout the nation's industries.

Builders and trade leaders are in favour of this bonus scheme and it will help to speed up the serious housing situation the sooner it is put into action the better.

Britain Can Make It

To turn to a somewhat related subject, the "Britain-Can-Make-It" exhibition is still attracting huge crowds to the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington. I was amazed the other day when I saw a conductor call out "Next stop for the 'Britain Can Make It' Exhibition; this one for the end of the queue."

Many provincial people, who all ways flock to London for Christmas, will now be able to visit the exhibition in their own towns. It has been decided to extend the exhibition until December 31. Originally it was scheduled to close at the end of October. The crowds, however, did not fall off and the closing date was timed for November. Still, the same queues were seen that the exhibition would not go on a provincial tour made the queues even longer; hence the December closing date. The exhibition will be closed on Christmas Day when the staff will take a rest after dealing with hundreds of thousands of visitors.

This Year's Pantomime

Nat Mills, of Nat Mills and Bobbie, is the only pantomime dame in London this year. He plays the title role in "Mother Goose" at the Casino, a pantomime which little children like. His estimated £20,000, compared with the £10,000 such a production would have cost pre-war. It is Nat Mills' first pantomime appearance.

He told me the other day that along with his wife he was looking forward to the Casino show, as being one of the greatest in the great city. One thing is certain—that this famous burlesque team will be another big London success.

The Casino show opens on December 20. It has a cast of 100, including Stanley Holloway and the O'Garra Brothers, 32 juveniles (aged 14) and a chorus. But with only one pantomime London will not be short of entertainment. "Piccadilly Hayride" (Sid Field) is at the Prince of Wales; Cochran's "Big Ben" at the Adelphi; "Grand National Night" (Hermione Budgeley) at the Leslie; "The Apollo; 'Sweetest and Lowest' at the Ambassadors; 'The Night and the Laughter' (Bud Flanagan) at the Coliseum; 'Vanity Fair' (Claire Luce) at the Comedy; 'Is your Honeymoon Really Necessary?' (Ralph Lynn) at the Duke of York's; 'Crime and Punishment' (John Gielgud) at the Globe; 'Perchance to Dream' at the Hippodrome; 'Follow the Girls' (Askoy) His Majesty's; 'High Time' (Nat Jackley) Palladium; 'Wonder of the Courts' (Cecily Courtenage) Phoenix; 'Skin of our Teeth' (Vivien Leigh) Piccadilly; 'Our Betters' (Dorothy Dickson) Playhouse; 'Fifty Fifty' (Harry Green) Strand; and 'The Shepherd Show' at the Princes.

There you are, if you're lucky enough to be in London for Christmas, you can pay your money and take your choice.

Earl of Middle East

Incidentally, an old Middle East favourite has just made his first London appearance. It is none other than our old friend Mr. "Earl of the Middle East." He is on tour with the show which was seen by thousands of troops in the desert "Middle East Varieties," and

TEST WITH MAN-MADE METEORITES

Man-made meteorites will be carried aloft by an Army V-2 rocket in an experiment to determine the size of real meteorites. It was announced recently at Harvard University. Dr. Fred L. Whipple, of the Harvard College Observatory, said that plans had been completed for the test on December 17 at White Sands proving ground, New Mexico, reports Associated Press.

Observations made during the 30 seconds of the rocket's ascent, he said, may provide scientists with new information about many of the mysterious phenomena of the upper atmosphere, including reactions of the atmosphere to moving bodies passing through it.

When 20 miles up, he said, the huge experimental rocket will begin to throw out the "meteorites" in swarms and continue to do so until it reaches a height of 40 miles.

These iron missiles are calculated to leave the rocket head at the same speed at which natural meteoroids enter the earth's atmosphere.

From the ground, two huge cameras—equipped with rotating shutters—will record the flight of the cast-off missiles covering an area of 40 to 45 degrees of the sky.

Success of the New Mexico experiment, he said, would eliminate largely any element of guesswork on the actual size of natural meteoroids—and, more important, the reactions of the upper atmosphere to moving bodies passing through it.

The idea of employing a rocket carrying an explosive device to produce "man-made meteorites" was first advanced by Dr. Fritz Zwicky of the California Institute of Technology. The experimental rocket was designed by Dr. J. A. Allen of Johns Hopkins University.

British Help For Churches In Europe

The British Council of Churches has raised £570,000 towards its target of £1,000,000 for Christian reconstruction in Europe.

Help is being given in both cash and kind. Grants of £10 each, for instance, have been given to more than 200 theological students in France. It is hoped to allot £50 to each of some 4,000 ministers to supply their need of clothes and books. Cycles and motor vehicles have been sent for the use of pastors in Holland, France, Belgium and other countries.

Sets of 50 books on British life and thought have been presented to 75 theological colleges on the Continent and subscriptions to British periodicals to 300 leading church members. The theological college in Athens is being equipped with a wooden building formerly used by the military has been transferred to Holland and refitted to house a new institute for the training of layworkers.

Visits to Britain have been arranged for leading church members from various countries including Norway, Holland and Czechoslovakia, to enable them to study aspects of British religious life, and it is hoped to arrange for a number of theological students to study in Britain.

The Committee for Reconstruction in Europe, of the British Council of Churches, represents Christian denominations in Britain other than the Roman Catholic Church. Roman Catholics in Britain and the Jewish community are of course also aiding religious reconstruction in Europe.

SHIP WITH NOVEL SILHOUETTE

The famous shipyard of Messrs Harland & Wolff of Belfast, are building a ship for the Royal Mail Line which, in the opinion of the experts, will have the most individual silhouette of all ships. The hull will deviate from the usual shape and the funnel will be of novel design.

The new ship is an 18,000-ton combined passenger-cargo vessel. The latest developments in air-cooling will be incorporated to safeguard the transport of chilled meat and dairy produce.

She will be named the "Magdalena," in memory of a Royal Mail ship of the same name which was lost during the war.

He's still crying "Let me Out," Jack Lester and Bill Budd, formerly with ENSA in the Middle East, are associated with the show.

Film of the week is "Dark Mirror," at the Odéon, Marble Arch. Olivia de Havilland plays one of those twin sister roles, and it's a case of all Havilland. She rises to heights of characterisation without the aid of make-up—and, as you'll have guessed, there's a psychiatric angle.

Book of the week is "Horned Pigeon," by George Millar. It tells of a post-war Australian writer in the relationship of various inhabitants—German, French, and American. It is a more than exciting story, handled with skill.

ALHAMBRA
 DAILY AT 2.15, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 PM.

CENTRAL
 DAILY AT 2.15, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 PM.

— TO-DAY ONLY —

Is She HIS or is She HIS?

She didn't say "Yes"—and she didn't say "No"—but she outfoxed the Nation's No. 1 Wolf!

CLAUDETTE COLBERT • FRED MACMURRAY
Practically Yours

Gil Lamb • Cecil Kellaway • Robert Benchley
Directed by MITCHELL LEISEN
A MITCHELL LEISEN PRODUCTION

COMMENCING TO-MORROW

LOVE PRIZE OF THE ISLANDS!

DOROTHY LAMOUR
JOHN HALL
ALOMA OF THE SOUTH SEAS

LORNA DOUGLAS • PHILIP HART • KATHLEEN HUNT
FRITZ LEBER • DONA DRAND • JIMMY HANCOCK
Technicolor

LEE THEATRE

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.10 & 9.15 P.M.
WANG HAO IN HONG KIN

"DARING GARRISON"
(A CHINESE PICTURE)

TO-DAY ONLY MAJESTIC At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

IT REVEALS A MAN'S SECRET DESIRES!

Sponsor Ingrid Lana
TRACY BERGMAN TURNER

in VICTOR FLEMING'S Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Production of
"DR. JEKYLL and MR. HYDE"
Donald Crisp • Barton MacLane • Ian Hunter • C. Aubrey Smith
TO-MORROW: "THE LADY IS WILLING"

GATHAY SHOWING TO-DAY At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

KAY FRANCIS • CAROLE LANDIS in

"FOUR GIRLS IN A JEEP"
Guest Stars: BETTY GRABLE • CARMAN MIRANDA

— TO-MORROW —
"THEY WERE SISTERS"
Starring: PHYLLIS CALVERT • JAMES MASON

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOTICE

CENTRAL BRITISH SCHOOL, KOWLOON.

The Easter Term at the above school will commence on Monday, 6th January, 1947.

The final date for receiving applications for registration of new pupils for next term will be Saturday, 28th December, 1946. These should be addressed to the Headmaster, Central British School, Kowloon, and should contain the following information:—Prospective pupil's name in full, date of birth, previous school, whether in the Colony now, if not, expected date of arrival.

G. P. FERGUSON,
Headmaster,
Central British School.

JAP REPATRIATES

Tokyo, Dec. 9. The Asahi Yomiuri bannered and displayed prominently stories of the arrival of the first Japanese repatriates from Soviet-held zones, some of whom lauded Soviet treatment of the Japanese held by the Russians and others who reported that the Russians had communized the areas once ruled by the Japanese.—Associated Press.

AMATEUR CYCLING TITLE

Zurich, Dec. 8. Oscar Plattner, Swiss holder of the world amateur sprint cycling championship, won the international sprint event to-day from Reginald Harris, British champion, and Julius Bifeyer, of Holland.—Reuter.

POSITIONS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited from certified or qualified navigating or diesel engineer officers for employment as Coast Staff Officers on the ships of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service. Employment is also offered to men experienced in navigating small craft. Applicants are interviewed at the Office of the Chinese Maritime Customs, 4th floor, Marine House, Queen's Road, Central.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



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Why must all his love affairs be such happy ones? Can't he lose his appetite once in a while?

